

 OUR ART  
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***Avid Reader***

36x48 inches

painting

Not for sale



## Ray Allen Parker

rayparkerart.com

@rayaparker

### Bio

Ray Allen Parker was born in San Diego, California, in 1951. The son of a sailor, he grew up in U.S. Navy towns from California to Florida to Hawaii and Washington before the family finally settled in rural Egypt, Arkansas. He earned a B.A. and an M.A. in English from the University of Arkansas, where he also took his first painting class. Following a three-decade career in retail advertising and communications, Ray finally returned to art and his lifelong interest in portrait and figure painting. Through large-scale works that strive to be both old masterly and contemporary, he explores the complex topography of the human face and figure. Ray lives and works in Fayetteville, AR.

### Artist Statement

I believe in heroic paintings. I create larger-than-life works that explore faces and figures in a convincing, painterly way that renders paint both as arresting brush mark and as flesh. I want my paintings to be bold but intimate, naturalistic but expressive, dense but revealing. I want my paintings to embody the person, not just depict them. With their intimate scrutiny of surface and self, these works draw us close to their figures and ask us to look through the layers of appearances, to peer into the portrayed faces and experience a range of shared and sometimes conflicting emotions. In this way, my portraits reward slow looking. The impact of these large-scale paintings is to demand our attention and connect us to others, while revealing new insights about our own selves.